

Attorney Docket No. 10559-284001
Serial No.: 09/675,817
Amendment dated February 6, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated October 8, 2003

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-19, 21-24 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Zuraski in view of Nishii and Narayan. While the undersigned believes that the rejection was based on hindsight, nonetheless, the claims are amended to better emphasize their patentable distinctions, and to obviate the interpretation that is currently taken by the Patent Office.

Specifically, as amended, claim 1 specifies storing a plurality of instructions of different sizes in a plurality of buffer areas where each buffer area stores a unit instruction width. The first instruction is decoded and output on an output part. While outputting the first instruction, the amount of depletion that will be caused by a second instruction is determined, and the buffer areas receive additional instructions to compensate.

This produces a system in which the buffers store information about instructions that are output. In addition, this system predicts how much information needs to be added to

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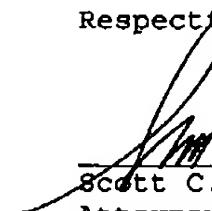
the buffers to maintain the pipeline. This is not taught or suggested by any combination of the prior art.

Claim 9 has been canceled, and new claim 25 has been substituted. New claim 25 defines additional details, as noted above, which are nowhere taught or suggested by the cited prior art.

The remaining claims have been similarly amended. As amended, it is respectfully suggested that all of the claims should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,



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